



WORKERS KILLED!

NO LOCKOUT/TAGOUT

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program has been investigating workplace deaths since 1992. One out of every ten deaths investigated has happened because there was a failure to de-energize and lockout/tagout a piece of equipment. The following two cases describe workers killed while performing maintenance.

MECHANIC CRUSHED IN ESCALATOR

Case#01CA009

A 37-year-old male escalator mechanic died when he was crushed in an escalator while performing maintenance. The victim had removed the escalator stairs and crawled inside the mechanism of the escalator. A co-worker dropped the escalator's electrical circuit box. This triggered a relay and sent power to the escalator. The stairs began moving. The victim could not get out before the power was turned off. There were no locks or tags on the power controls to the escalator. The disconnect switch at the circuit panel that fed power to the elevator had not been locked and tagged out. No blocks or mechanical devices had been used to keep the escalator from moving.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Workers should:

- ▶ Be sure machines are de-energized and locked and tagged out before they do maintenance.
- ▶ Block machines from moving before doing maintenance.

Employers should:

- ▶ Consider requiring that workers be directly supervised during lockout/tagout.

WELDER CRUSHED TO DEATH BY SHREDDER

Case#02CA004

A 52-year-old welder was crushed to death by a hydraulic door on a scrap metal shredder. The victim was trying to remove a jammed piece of metal from the hydraulic door. The system's energy had not been released and the door had not been blocked open. The victim had not de-energized and locked out the machine. He cut the jammed piece of metal with a torch. The jam fell away and the door closed on him. The company did not require a supervisor's visual confirmation of de-energization and lockout/tagout prior to maintenance work.

For complete fatality reports of these or other cases, and information on the FACE Program, contact:

California Department of Health Services
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1901, Oakland, CA 94612
or visit our website at
www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/ohsep/face.

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California Department of Health Services
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1901
Oakland, CA 94612

FACE is a public health program run by the California Department of Health Services, Occupational Health Branch and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation." The purpose of the **FACE** Program is to find problems that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.



Gray Davis, Governor
State of California

Grantland Johnson, Secretary
Health and Human Services Agency

Diana M. Bonta, R.N., Dr.P.H.
Director, Department of Health Services

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